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REGIONAL INFORMATION OFFICES

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Week of November 14, 1977

PRESIDENT SIGNS BILL
RAISING MINIMUM WAGE

WASHINGTON -- President Carter has signed legislation raising the federal minimum wage annually for the next four years, until it reaches $3.35 an hour in 1981.

The first increase, effective Jan. 1, 1978, establishes the minimum at $2.65 an hour. It will increase the pay of 4.5 million workers by a total of $2.2 billion.

In 1979, another 5.1 million workers will benefit, by a total of $2.1 billion, when the minimum reaches $2.90.

The 1980 minimum -- $3.10 an hour -- will add $1.9 billion to the pay of 5.2 million workers. The last scheduled step up, in 1981, will provide increases amounting to $2.3 billion to 5.4 million affected employees.

Workers in the hotel, motel and restaurant industry will benefit from provisions in the law affecting employer exemptions for "tipped employees."

First, the number of employees who will receive the full minimum is increased by changing the definition of "tipped employee" from those receiving $20 a month in tips to those receiving $30, effective Jan. 1, 1978.

Second, the amount of "tip credit" employers can use to reduce the percentage of the full minimum that they must pay their workers is reduced from the present 50 percent to 45 percent, effective Jan. 1, 1979, and to 40 percent, effective Jan. 1, 1980.

Also, overtime payments to workers in hotels, motels and restaurants (except for maids and custodial employees) will begin after 44 hours instead of 46, effective Jan. 1, 1978, and after 40 hours, beginning Jan. 1, 1979. This increased overtime protection will benefit 2.4 million workers.

Overtime provisions were also liberalized for some cotton ginning, sugar processing and tobacco workers.

In the retail and service industry, it is expected that fewer workers will be covered by the minimum wage as the result of provisions gradually increasing the

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amount of business done or gross annual volume of sales allowed to enterprises not covered by the Act. Approximately 650,000 employees may be affected by the end of 1981.

In Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, workers already receiving a minimum wage equal to that paid on the mainland will continue to do so. Those receiving less than the mainland minimum will get annual increases, starting Jan. 1, 1978, until they are at the same minimum rate as mainland employees.

The legislation, which amends the Fair Labor Standards Act, allows the Secretary to grant waivers permitting employers to hire children aged 10 and 11 in piece rate hand agricultural operations, under certain restricted conditions.

It also provides the right to private action for employees who are discharged or discriminated against, either for filing a complaint under the Act or for cooperating with the Department of Labor in proceedings under the Act, effective Jan. 1, 1978.

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Week of November 14, 1977

PRESIDENT CARTER ANNOUNCES
U.S. TO WITHDRAW FROM ILO

WASHINGTON -- President Carter has announced that the United States will withdraw from the International Labor Organization.

Secretary of Labor Ray Marshall made the following statement concerning the action:

As the President's statement indicated, we have decided to allow our letter of withdrawal from the International Labor Organization (ILO) to take effect.

This has been a very difficult decision. We continue to believe in the ILO's potential to deal with the problems of working people throughout the world. It saddens us that the ILO is not living up to that potential.

The Carter Administration is very concerned about human rights. Minimum labor standards are a basic human right. Humanitarian considerations alone dictate the need for workers to have decent wages, working conditions and the freedom of association. But, in addition, we live in a world where working conditions in one country affect working conditions in other countries. A liberal trade policy is only possible when minimum labor standards apply and countries compete fairly.

These are the types of issues that the ILO was meant to address. Unfortunately, the ILO has in recent years increasingly disregarded its basic principles and procedures. There are four particularly alarming trends. They are the selective application of human rights conventions, the denial of due process, the introduction of political considerations outside the scope of the ILO's

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mandate and the erosion of the principle of tripartite representation. As a result of these trends, the United States felt compelled on November 5, 1975 to give the ILO the two year notice of intent to withdraw required by the Organization's constitution.

In the 1975 letter it was made clear that the United States did not want to withdraw from the ILO and would work to modify these disturbing trends. During the last two years, extraordinary efforts have been made to explain the United States' concerns to other nations and to work jointly to bring about the needed changes in the ILO. For a time it appeared that progress was being made in these efforts.

When this Administration took office we conducted a thorough review of the circumstances that had prompted the 1975 letter and the events since then. We had hopes that the June 1977 ILO Conference which I attended would take action to bring about the necessary changes. To our regret, the results of that Conference were disappointing. A majority of the delegates refused to halt the Organization's movement away from its accepted principles and procedures. We therefore decided to permit our notice of withdrawal from the ILO to take effect.

I do not want our withdrawal from the ILO to be misinterpreted. This action does not diminish our continued commitment to international organizations or the importance we attached to the effective functioning of these organizations. To the contrary, our deep belief in the important role of international organizations has led us to make clear that there are limits to which an organization like the ILO can go.

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I am optimistic that the ILO will make the changes necessary for us to rejoin the Organization. I hope that in a short time we will in good conscience be able to participate in the ILO again. Our commitment to what the ILO stood for in the past and the Organization's potential is undiminished. Equally undiminished is our commitment to work together with other countries on important labor matters.

This Administration will continue to monitor events in Geneva very closely. One indication of our continuing interest in the ILO is the decision to maintain the Cabinet-Level Committee on the ILO which I chair. I intend to convene another meeting of the Cabinet-level Committee in the near future. We will continue to work toward the day when we can rejoin this potentially valuable international agency.

# # #

BLACK UNEMPLOYMENT RATE EDGES
UP TO 13.9 PERCENT, BLS REPORTS

WASHINGTON -- The jobless rate for blacks, which tends to fluctuate much more from month to month than the rate for whites, edged up from 13.1 to 13.9 percent in October, the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

Unemployment of white workers, on the other hand, has held at 6.1 percent for 4 straight months.

Over the past year, the black rate has shown no improvement, while joblessness for whites has declined by more than a percentage point.

The unemployment rate for black youths was 37.9 percent in October, remaining within the 35 to 40 percent rate that has prevailed for the past three years.

The Bureau reported that on a national basis, the overall employment situation was little changed in October.

The unemployment rate was 7.0 percent, thus remaining within the 6.9 to 7.1 percent rate that has prevailed since April.

Total employment--as measured by the monthly survey of households--edged up by 135,000 to 91.2 million in October. Over the past 12 months, employment has grown by 3.5 million. Nonfarm payroll employment--as measured by the monthly survey of establishments--also rose slightly (by 120,000) over the month to 82.9 million. Payroll jobs have increased by 3.1 million since October 1976.

There were 6.9 million unemployed persons in October, after seasonal adjustment, about the same number as in the previous month. The unemployment rate was 7.0 percent, the level around which it fluctuated narrowly during the prior 6 months. Strong downward movements early in the year, however, account for an 11-month decline of a full percentage point.

While the overall number of persons unemployed was little changed in October, there was an increase among men 25 years old and over; their 4.4-percent jobless rate marked

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an 8-month high. Partly offsetting this movement were marginal declines in the rates for most other age-sex groups.

Over the October 1976-77 period, total unemployment has fallen by more than 600,000, with four-fifths of the decline occurring among job losers. The average (mean) duration of unemployment edged down in October to 13.8 weeks and was 1.5 weeks lower than a year earlier.

Total employment continued its post-recession expansion with a small rise in October. There were over-the-month increases among teenagers of 175,000 and adult men of 160,000. These outweighed a decline of 200,000 among adult women, which followed an advance of 500,000 in the previous month. Total employment has risen by 3.5 million over the past 12 months, and, in contrast with the September-October developments, almost half of the total increase was among adult women. Their ranks swelled by 1.7 million, while employment of adult men was up 1.4 million and teenage employment grew by nearly 500,000.

The employment-population ratio--the proportion of the total noninstitutional population that is employed--held steady over the month at 57.3 percent, a tenth of a point below the record high last reached in March 1974.

An October increase brought the civilian labor force to 98.1 million, 2.9 million more than a year earlier. The labor force participation rate--the proportion of the civilian noninstitutional population either working or seeking work--was 62.4 percent in October, a tenth of a point above the September rate and a tenth below the alltime high recorded in June.

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Week of November 14, 1977

OIC TO OPERATE EXPANDED
PROJECT FOR SCHOOL DROPOUTS

WASHINGTON -- A two-year, $5 million demonstration project in four areas--one rural and three urban--to test a career education program for high-school dropouts and potential dropouts has been funded by the U.S. Department of Labor.

The demonstration project will be jointly sponsored by the Labor Department's Employment and Training Administration and the National Institute of Education (NIE) of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, in cooperation with the Opportunities Industrialization Centers (OIC) of America.

The site where the study will be conducted will be announced in December. Projects are scheduled to begin in January, with 150 to 200 participants annually at each site.

The Philadelphia prototype--called the Career Intern Program (CIP)--was conceived in 1972 by the OIC, which has operated it in that city since then with NIE support. The four CIP demonstration projects will be operated by OIC affiliates.

CIP is an alternative school for persons 15 to 21 years of age from low-income families who have either dropped out of school or are about to drop out. It seeks to increase their stay in high school, improve career planning and occupational knowledge among students, enhance basic skills, and ease youth transition from school to work as shown by employment and or continued education.

CIP prepares the high-school dropout or potential dropout who is interested in finding a productive role in society but seeks an optional route to achieve it. Students attend a fully accredited alternative high school which offers them academic preparation for a career. Most of these students have been unable to progress satisfactorily in traditional high schools and lack interest in continuing.

The expanded CIP project is being funded through Section (a) and (b) of the Youth Employment and Demonstration Projects Act of 1977, which authorizes the Labor Department to carry out a variety of demonstration projects.

Such projects explore the feasibility and assess the effectiveness of innovative approaches to assist economically disadvantaged and other youth to complete high school, to enter the world of work, and to achieve job stability and advancement.

# # #

Week of November 14, 1977

JOB TRAINING IN MACHINE TRADES
PLANNED FOR 1,000 DISADVANTAGED

WASHINGTON -- One thousand persons will receive on-the-job training for occupations in the machine trades industry under an $892,607 contract renewal, Assistant Secretary of Labor Ernest G. Green announced.

The National Machine Tool Builders Association of McLean, Va., will recruit 800 jobless men and women for entry-level jobs in large tool building firms in 20 states. An additional 200 persons employed by these firms in low-level jobs will have their skills upgraded.

In recruiting workers, special emphasis will be given to the economically disadvantaged, minorities, Vietnam-era veterans, women, and the handicapped.

They will be trained in such operations as apprentice machinist, machine builder, machine set-up operator, production machine operator, assembler, inspector, and service representative.

Since its first contract in February 1966, the association has trained approximately 12,700 persons.

The contract with the Labor Department's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) is funded under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA), Title III, Section 301.

For further information about the contract, contact John Mandl, National Machine Tool Builders Association, 7901 Westpark Drive, McLean, Va., 22101, (703-893-2900).

Distribution of funds and training opportunities as now planned is:

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STATE	TRAINEES	TRAINEE COST
Alabama	20	$ 17,852
California	20	17,852
Connecticut	80	71,408
Illinois	180	160,668
Indiana	40	35,704
Kansas	20	17.852
Massachusetts	40	35,704
Michigan	90	80,334
Minnesota	10	8,926
Mississippi	40	35,704
New Hampshire	20	17,852
New Jersey	20	17,852
New York	40	35,704
North Carolina	30	26,778
Ohio	140	124,964
Pennsylvania	40	35,704
Rhode Island	80	71,408
South Carolina	40	35,704
Vermont	10	8,926
Wisconsin	40	35,711
	1,000	$ 892,607

The trainee cost reflects an average of $892.60 per trainee. Amounts for states have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

Training slots may be transferred among the several states upon written notice and prior approval of the ETA.

# # #

Week of November 14, 1977

4 BLACK OFFICIALS ELECTED TO REGIONAL
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES IN LABOR DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON -- Four black officials of the U.S. Labor Department have been elected chairperson or vice-chairperson of the department's Regional Executive Committees.

The committees,one in each of 10 regional headquarters, are comprised of regional agency heads and are charged with coordinating the department's field activities.

The officials, elected to one-year terms through Oct. 1, 1978, are:

-- in Philadelphia, Charles M. Angell, regional administrator, Employment Standards Administration, and J. Terrell Whitsitt, regional administrator, Employment and Training Administration, chair and vice-chairperson, respectively;

-- in Chicago, William Rice, regional commissioner, Bureau of Labor Statistics, chairperson, and

-- in Boston, Gilbert J. Saulter, regional administrator, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, vice-chairperson.

Regional Executive Committees were established under an August 1977 Secretary's Order to serve two major functions:

-- Provide a regular exchange of information among regional agency heads about program policies, problems and activities; establish a forum for communication between the national office and field, and serve as a basis for any team effort required to improve program coordination.

-- Keep the assistant secretary for administration and management informed of problems affecting more than one Labor Department program that have broad implications for the department or communities in a region.

Secretary Marshall's order establishing the committees said they are designed to fulfill the need for an internal "coordinating mechanism in the field" under the Department's new approach to regional management. This approach includes the appointments

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of 10 regional representatives to replace regional director positions, eight of whom have already been named.

Committee members in each region include the regional administrators for employment and training, employment standards, labor-management relations, occupational safety and health and administration and management; regional solicitor; regional commissioner of labor statistics; regional representative and regional public information director.

Vice chairpersons of the regional executive committees automatically succeed chairpersons at the end of their one-year terms, when new vice chairpersons are elected.

# # #

Week of November 14, 1977

OSHA PROPOSES PERMANENT
RULE ON DBCP EXPOSURE

WASHINGTON -- Proposed permanent job health standards that would greatly reduce worker exposure to DBCP (1,2-DIBROMO-3-CHLOROPROPANE), a soil fumigant, were announced by the U.S. Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

The proposal would reduce to one part per billion (ppb) the permissible exposure limit of 10 ppb set in a Sept. 9 emergency rule. The emergency ceiling level of 50 ppb, averaged over any 15-minute period, would be reduced to 10 ppb over the same time period. Both the emergency and proposed permanent standard prohibit eye and skin contact with the chemical.

In announcing the proposed permanent rule, Assistant Secretary of Labor Dr. Eula Bingham concluded that the chemical poses multiple risks to exposed workers.

"There is no doubt that DBCP causes sterility among exposed workers," she said. "It causes other acute and chronic effects from skin contact, inhalation and ingestion, as well. Also, since well-designed studies in two mamalian species of test animals, both sexes, at multiple dose levels, demonstrate carcinogenicity, we believe it is necessary, as a prudent policy matter, to treat DBCP as posing a potential cancer risk to humans."

Dr. Bingham noted that it is the threat of potential cancer risk that led her agency to set the one ppb level. "We had to set a level which will minimize the hazard to the greatest extent possible, within the confines of feasibility," she said.

Dr. Bingham added that an OSHA-contracted study shows that the one ppb level is technically possible for both DBCP manufacturing and formulating although no present DBCP operations were found that meet the level.

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The scope of the proposed standard would not include exposures resulting solely from application and use of DBCP as a pesticide. Instead, the proposal notes that regulatory actions announced by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will have two important effects leading to increased protection of workers exposed to such use of DBCP. First, EPA's suspension of DBCP pesticide use for certain food crops will substantially reduce the number of applicators and field workers who would otherwise be exposed. Second, under EPA's conditional suspension for all other uses, applicators must be certified or working under the direct supervision of a certified applicator. Also, protective clothing and respirators are required to be worn by such persons.

Dr. Bingham said that she believes "this strategy of combined and cooperative regulatory actions by both OSHA and EPA is an effective approach to protecting workers against the hazards of exposure to DBCP."

The proposal raises 10 specific issues on which public comment and views are sought by December 2.

-- Whether the proposal would provide adequate worker protection against all DBCP hazards.

-- Whether DBCP should be considered as a human carcinogen.

-- Whether the proposed permissible exposure limit of one ppb and ceiling limit of 10 ppb for 15 minutes are sufficiently low to protect workers.

-- Whether compliance with the proposed exposure limits would be technologically and economically feasible for affected industries.

-- Whether provisions for recordkeeping, methods of compliance, medical surveillance, regulated areas, personal protective equipment, protective clothing, and hygiene facilities and practices are appropriate and feasible.

-- whether there are alternate, equally effective, medical procedures for detection of sterility.

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-- What medical procedures, effective in early cancer detection, should be part of the medical surveillance program.

-- Whether medical removal protection should be provided where further exposure would increase health risks for workers.

-- Whether training, posting and labeling provisions are adequate and appropriate.

-- What are the environmental and economic impacts of the proposal.

These issues, and any others raised by the proposed permanent rule, will be discussed fully in public hearings scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m., December 13, in the Department of Labor Auditorium, 3rd St. and Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C.

# # #

Week of November 14, 1977

WAGE AND HOUR VIOLATIONS AFFECT
ALL-TIME RECORD NUMBER OF WORKERS

WASHINGTON -- Enforcement of federal wage and hour laws during the year ending September 30, 1977, resulted in the disclosure of back wages due to more workers than in any previous year in the 39 years of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Secretary of Labor Ray Marshall announced that back wages were found owed by employers to 628,000 workers totaling $112 million. This compares with 561,370 workers found owed $112.2 million in fiscal 1976, the previous record year.

During fiscal 1977, about 481,000 underpaid employees recieved a total of $65.5 million in back pay wages, as compared to $67 million restored to 446,500 workers in fiscal 1976.

"These figures are positive indications that employees are becoming increasingly aware of their rights on the job and that the wage and hour laws designed to protect them are being enforced," Marshall said.

The following chart compares fiscal 1976 and 1977 enforcement statistics:

	1977 Underpayments disclosed	1977 Employees found Underpaid	1976 Underpayments disclosed	1976 Employees found Underpaid
FLSA				
Minimum Wage	$37,180,091	371,041	$37,889,306	296,324
Overtime	$51,219,341	265,744	$51,171,641	261,892
Government Contracts				
Minimum Wage	$ 6,761,970	24,776	$ 4,288,135	21,623
Overtime	$ 1,317,084	9,141	$ 824,602	6,007
Equal Pay	$15,512,141	19,382	$17,952,212	24,610
Garnishment	$ 21,711	33	$ 37,054	61
Totals	$112,013,338	628,622	$112,162,950	561,370

The major reason for the difference between the total money found due to employees and the amount actually paid is the employers' failure to pay back wages in cases unsuitable for litigation by the Labor Department. In such cases, any employee has the right to institute private and independent action for the recovery of back wages due. Substantial

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amounts of wages are recovered by employees in this way which are not reflected in the department's statistics.

Another reason for the difference is the two-year statute of limitations which limits recovery of back wages to a two-year period prior to the department's filing a complaint against an employer.

The Wage and Hour Division of the Labor Department's Employment Standards Administration conducts its enforcement activities through the work of more than 1,000 compliance officers who investigate for wage and hour violations.

The wage protection laws under which monetary findings were made include:

-- the Fair Labor Standards Act, which sets minimum wage, overtime pay and child-labor standards;

-- the Equal Pay Act, which requires equal pay for men and women doing substantially equal work in the same establishment;

-- the federal wage garnishment law, which limits the amount which can be garnished from an employee's paycheck; and

-- various laws which protect employees who work on federally funded contracts.

Also under the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, which protects workers aged 40 to 65, investigations disclosed 1,707 employees were underpaid $8.9 million. During fiscal 1976, 1,908 employees were underpaid a total of $8.6 million.

Wage and hour investigations revealed 16,000 minors illegally employed. For child-labor violations, employers were assessed civil money penalties totaling $1,283,155. The fines collected are used in administering the program.

# # #

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX -- OCTOBER 1977

WASHINGTON -- The Finished Goods Price Index rose 0.8 percent from September to October on a seasonally adjusted basis. The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the Wholesale Price Index for All Commodities also moved up 0.8 percent in October. Unlike the Finished Goods Price Index, the All Commodities Wholesale Price Index reflects price changes at all states of processing -- finished, intermediate, and crude -- and thus duplicates price changes as they move through the price structure.

The 0.8 percent advance in the Finished Goods Price Index followed a 0.4 percent rise in September and, before that, 3 months of little or no change. In October, prices of producer finished goods increased more than in any month since late 1974, principally because of higher prices for 1978 model year trucks.

Consumer food prices at the producer level turned up after 4 consecutive months of decrease, as meat prices advanced. Increases for jewelry, passenger cars, and gasoline led the October rise in the index for consumer finished goods excluding foods. The index of intermediate materials exluding foods rose 0.5 percent, about the same as in each of the previous 3 months. Prices of crude materials excluding foods edged down 0.2 percent after increasing 0.3 percent in September.

On a commodity basis, the farm products price index moved up 2.4 percent in October, and the index of processed foods and feeds rose 0.8 percent. Both of these indexes had been falling for several months. The industrial commodities index increased 0.6 percent, following a 0.8 percent advance in September.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Finished Goods Price Index rose 1.2 percent to 183.9 (1967=100), and the All Commodities WPI moved 0.5 percent higher to 196.3 Over the year, the Finished Goods Price Index was up 6.8 percent, and the All Commodities WPI increased 5.9 percent. Prices for producer finished goods rose 7.2 percent from October 1976 to October 1977, consumer food prices were also 7.2 percent higher, and the index for consumer finished goods excluding foods moved up 6.4 percent.

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Week of November 14, 1977

TRENDS IN WEEKLY, HOURLY EARNINGS
FOR MAJOR LABOR FORCE GROUPS

WASHINGTON -- Weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers averaged $212 in May 1977--up $15 or 6.9 percent from May 1976, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. But because consumer prices rose at about the same pace (6.7 percent), real earnings (purchasing power) did not change significantly. (The average weekly earnings figures cited in this report are median usual weekly earnings.)

Over the past 10 years, real earnings of full-time wage and salary workers have risen 7.3 percent, with larger gains for certain groups. The real earnings of black workers, for example, have risen 19.0 percent.

The median hourly rate for workers paid by the hour--including both those on full- and part-time schedules--was $3.83 in May 1977. The median rate for men was $4.98 and that for women $3.09.

Weekly earnings

The data for 1977 show that large differences persist both in the levels and trends of the usual weekly earnings for the various groups of workers. Here are the principal findings:

-- The median weekly earnings of all men who work full time was $253 in May 1977, while the median for women in full-time jobs was $156, or about 62 percent of the average for men. This ratio has shown little change over the past 10 years (table 1).

-- Married men working full time were reported earning an average (median) of $272 a week in May 1977. Wives with full-time jobs reported a median of $158.

-- Average weekly earnings of white full-time workers were $217, compared with $171 for their black counterparts. The median for white men ($259) was 29 percent higher than that of black men ($201). On the other hand, median earnings of white women ($157) were only 7 percent higher than those of black women ($147). Ten years ago, these race differentials were considerably larger--44 percent for men and 25 percent for women.

-- When the usual weekly earnings figures are translated into dollars of constant purchasing power, the median for all wage and salary workers--including those working part time--shows no significant change over the 1967-1977 period. However, the median for all full-time workers shows a total increase of 7 percent, and the separate medians for men and women in this group show gains of 11 and 10 percent, respectively (table 2). The fact that the overall averages have shown no change or much smaller increases than the components is attributable to the increase in the proportion of workers who have traditionally been at the low end of the pay scale--part-time workers, women, and youths.

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-- There are also striking trend differences between older and younger workers. Real weekly earnings of both men and women 25 years of age and over show increases of about 15 percent from 1967 to 1977. However, real earnings for workers 16 to 24, who have been crowding into the labor force in large numbers over this period, show an actual deterioration of 9 percent for men and a standstill for women.

-- Black workers show a considerably faster increase in real earnings than white workers over the 1967-1977 period--19 vs. 5 percent. For both racial groups, the separate medians for men and women show larger gains than the combined averages for both sexes.

-- Because the rise in earnings for most groups of workers failed to match the 37 percent increase in the consumer price index between May 1973 and May 1977, real weekly earnings in May 1977 were still below the peaks reached in 1973. For all full-time workers, for example, real weekly earnings in May 1973 were 10 percent above the 1967 level; in May 1977, they were only 7 percent above the 1967 average.

-- About 25 percent of all full-time workers reported usual earnings of $300 or more per week in May 1977. This proportion varied widely among different groups of employees--ranging from 37 percent for white men, 19 percent for black men, and 7 percent for white and black women alike. On the other hand, 6 percent of full-time workers reported usual earnings of less than $100 per week

Data on hourly earnings for workers paid at hourly rates have been collected through the Current Population Survey each May since 1973. A little over one-half of both full- and part-time workers, reported that they were paid by the hour in May 1977.

-- Median hourly earnings for all workers paid by the hour were $3.83 in May 1977 and mean earnings were $4.36. The distribution of these workers in terms of their hourly rates of pay for the 1973-77 period is shown in table 4. As indicated, the proportions in the lower earnings intervals, such as under $2.25, have declined considerably over this 4-year period. At the same time, the proportions in the highest earnings intervals have increased rapidly. It should be noted, however, that these distributions are shown in current dollars. In real terms, earnings of $3.08 per hour would be required in May 1977 to equal a May 1973 rate of $2.25.

-- Viewed in terms of specific labor force groups, the workers most likely to be at the lower end of the earnings scale were women, particularly young women. Those at the upper end were predominantly men age 25 and over (table 5).

-- White men had average (median) hourly [illegible] at hour, 17 percent above the $4.32 median for black men. The median hourly earnings of white women ($3.09) were not significantly different from those of black women ($3.04).

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Week of November 14, 1977

FILLERS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The first national labor union that still exists was the International Typographical Union, founded in 1850, according to "Labor Firsts in America," published by the U.S. Department of Labor.

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The first court decision that labor combinations were not illegal as long as their objectives were not harmful was Commonwealth vs. Hunt by the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts in 1842, according to "Labor Firsts in America," published by the U.S. Department of Labor.

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The first union of federal employees was formed by New York City letter carriers in 1863, according to "Labor Firsts in America," published by the U.S. Department of Labor.

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The first national women's labor organization was the Daughters of St. Crispin, consisting of female shoemakers, from 1867 to 1878, according to "Labor Firsts in America," published by the U.S. Department of Labor.

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The first national black labor organization was the Colored National Labor Union, formed in 1869, according to "Labor Firsts in America," published by the U.S. Department of Labor.

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